

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04458 141155Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 141058Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7499

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4458

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS IS XF

SUBJECT: ALLON ON MORGAN KIDNAPPING, PLO, AND TERRORISM

1. JULY 10 MEETING BETWEEN CODEL MEYNER AND FONMIN ALLON INCLUDED DISCUSSION CONCERNING ABDUCTION OF COL. MORGAN AND GENERAL PROBLEM OF TERRORISM. REMARKS BY ALLON PROVIDED INSIGHT INTO HIS ASSESSMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR MORGAN CASE AS WELL AS USEFUL UPDATE OF HIS VIEWS ON PLO AND TERRORISM.

2. TO CODEL'S OBSERVATION THAT NO ONE SEEMED TO KNOW IDENTITY OF GROUP THAT KIDNAPPED MORGAN, ALLON SAID GOI "KNOWS" THAT GROUP WAS PFLP, LED BY HABASH, ALTHOUGH OPERATING UNDER ASSUMED NAME. HE CITED AS EVIDENCE FACT THAT INDIVIDUAL WHO HAD BEEN NEGOTIATING FOR MORGAN'S RELEASE WAS KNOWN PFLP OPERATIVE. DESCRIBING PFLP AS "PART OF PLO", ALLON ADDED THAT WHILE HABASH CERTAINLY DOES NOT TAKE ORDERS FROM ARAFAT HE FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT ARAFAT DID NOT HAVE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF PLANS FOR MORGAN ABDUCTION. WHEN CODEL REFERRED TO PRESS REPORTS OF PLO MEMBERS AIDING IN
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 04458 141155Z

SEARCH FOR MORGAN, ALLON DESCRIBED THIS AS TACTICAL PLOY

DESIGNED TO WIN FAVOR WITH US AND SAID HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO SEE ARAFAT BLOW WHISTLE ON OPERATION BEFOREHAND.

3. ALLON REJECTED CODEL'S SUGGESTION THAT ARAFAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED "MODERATE" COMPARED WITH SOME OTHER LEADERS WITHIN PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT. THIS MIGHT BE TRUE, HE SAID, FROM AMERICAN OR EUROPEAN VANTAGE POINT, BUT NOT FROM ISRAELI. ALLON REFERRED CODEL TO ARAFAT STATEMENTS JUST BEFORE AND AFTER ZION SQUARE BOMBING ADVOCATING CONTINUED TERRORISM INSIDE ISRAEL. ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ARAFAT AND LEADERS SUCH AS HABASH, ACCORDING TO ALLON, IS THAT HABASH KILLS INDISCRIMINATELY ON GLOBAL SCALE WHILE ARAFAT KILLS INDISCRIMINATELY "ONLY" IN ISRAEL.

4. ALLON ALSO DEFENDED JULY 7 IDF RAIDS IN RASHIDIYAH AREA. HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN SERIES OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS TO WHICH ISRAEL HAD NOT RPT NOT RESPONDED, AND SAID HE FEARED THIS FACT MIGHT HAVE ENCOURAGED PERPETRATORS OF ZION SQUARE BOMBING. HE STRESSED THAT ZION SQUARE INCIDENT HAD REAFFIRMED GOI CONVICTION THAT TERRORISTS COULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE WITH IMPUNITY. TO CODEL OBSERVATION THAT ISRAELI RETALIATORY RAIDS ALSO KILL INNOCENT CIVILIANS AND CONVEY ADVERSE MESSAGE TO WORLD PUBLIC OPINION, ALLON REJOINED BY DESCRIBING LENGTHY MEETING HELD PRIOR TO ISSUING ORDER FOR JULY 7 RAIDS AT WHICH EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TO PIN-POINT SELECTIVE TARGETS WITH VIEW TOWARD MINIMIZING CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.
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